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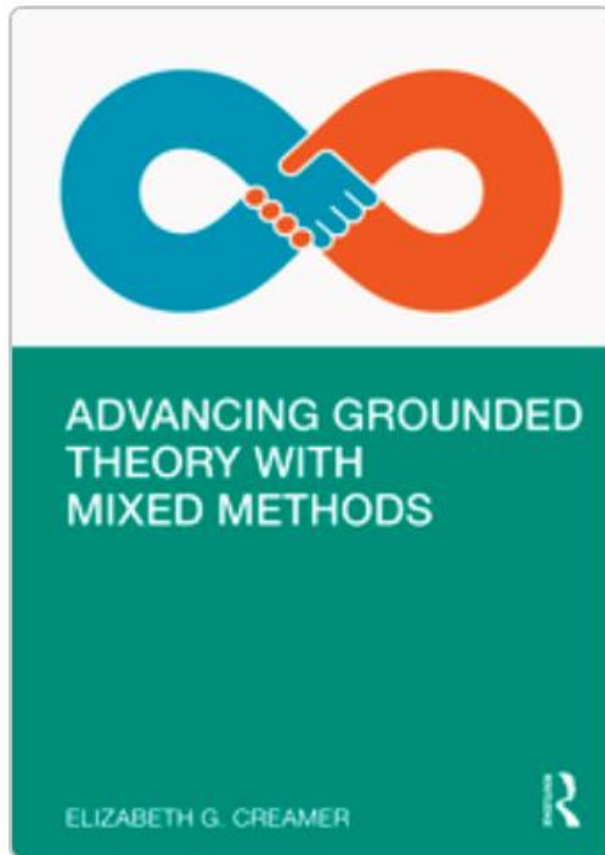
Navigating Misperceptions about Mixed Methods Research in a Contemporary Context

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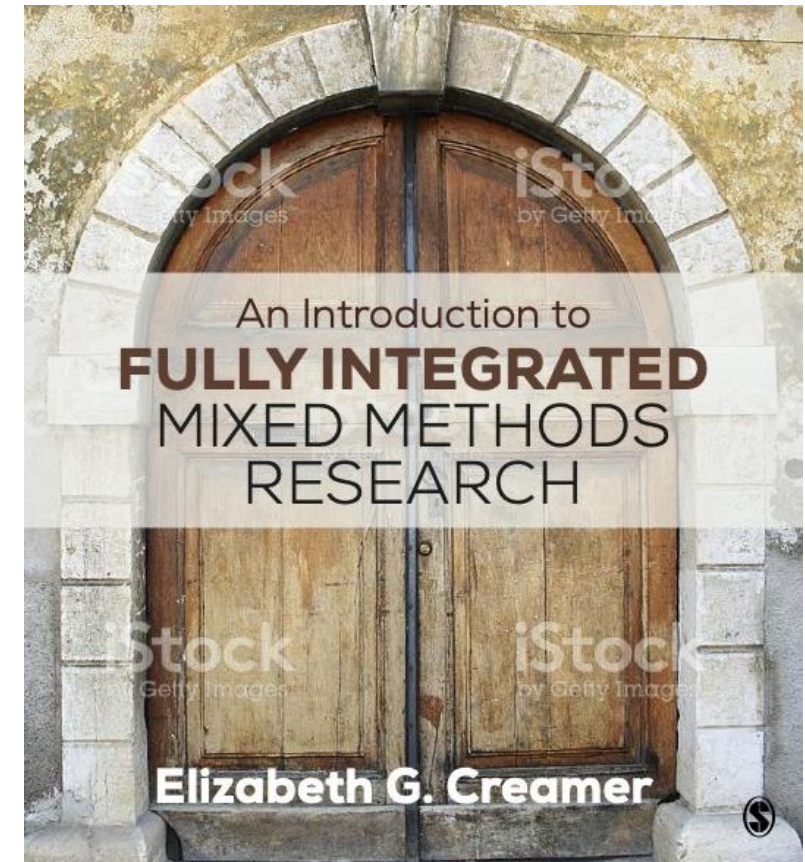
Advancing Grounded Theory wi...

Elizabeth G. Creamer

2021

[Routledge/Francis & Taylor](#)

2/28/2022



[An Introduction to Fully Integrated Mixed Methods Research](#)

[Elizabeth G. Creamer](#)

2018

SAGE

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Misperceptions about Mixed Methods by Stage of the Research Process

1

MMR is a “new” methodology.

2

MMR is mixing paradigms.

3

MMR trivializes QUAL.

4

QUAL and QUANT are executed in strands that should be kept separate.

5

Quality rests on choosing the right MMR design.

MMR is a New Methodology: There's a Difference between When the Movement Started and When the Label Started to be Adapted

Number of Publications Mentioning MMR in Reuters Web of Science from Timans, Wouters, & Heilbron, 2019

Theory and Society (2019) 48:193–216

195

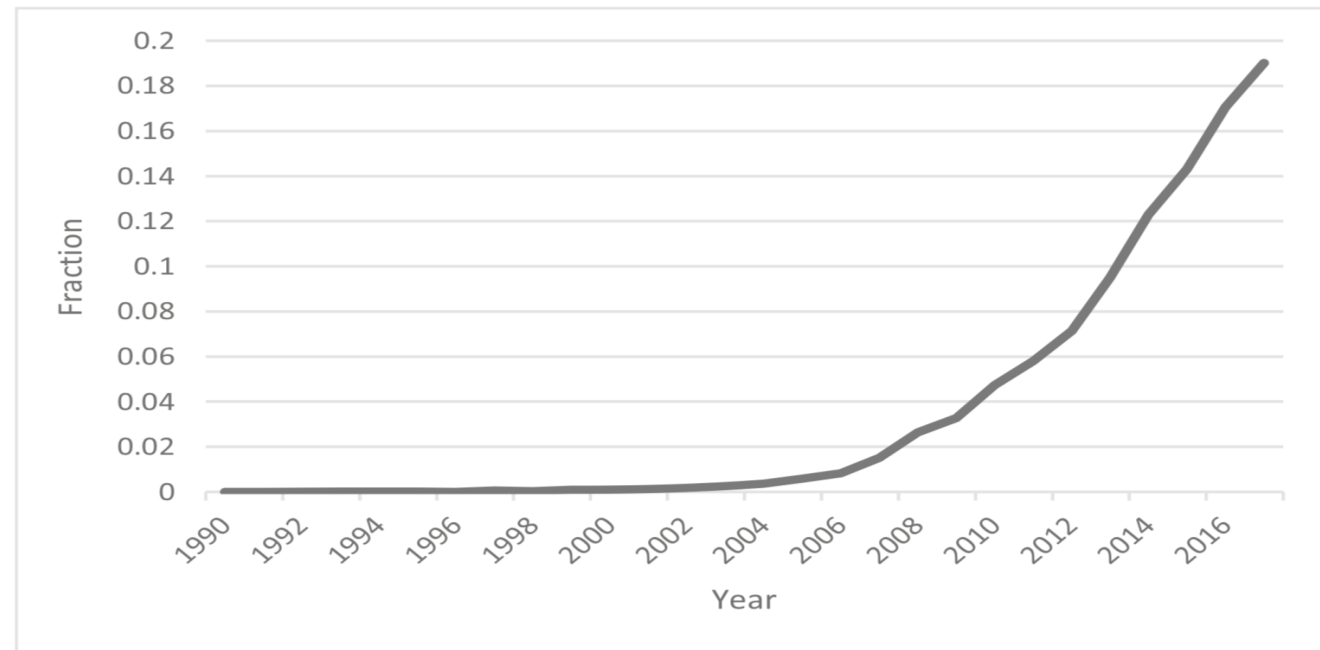
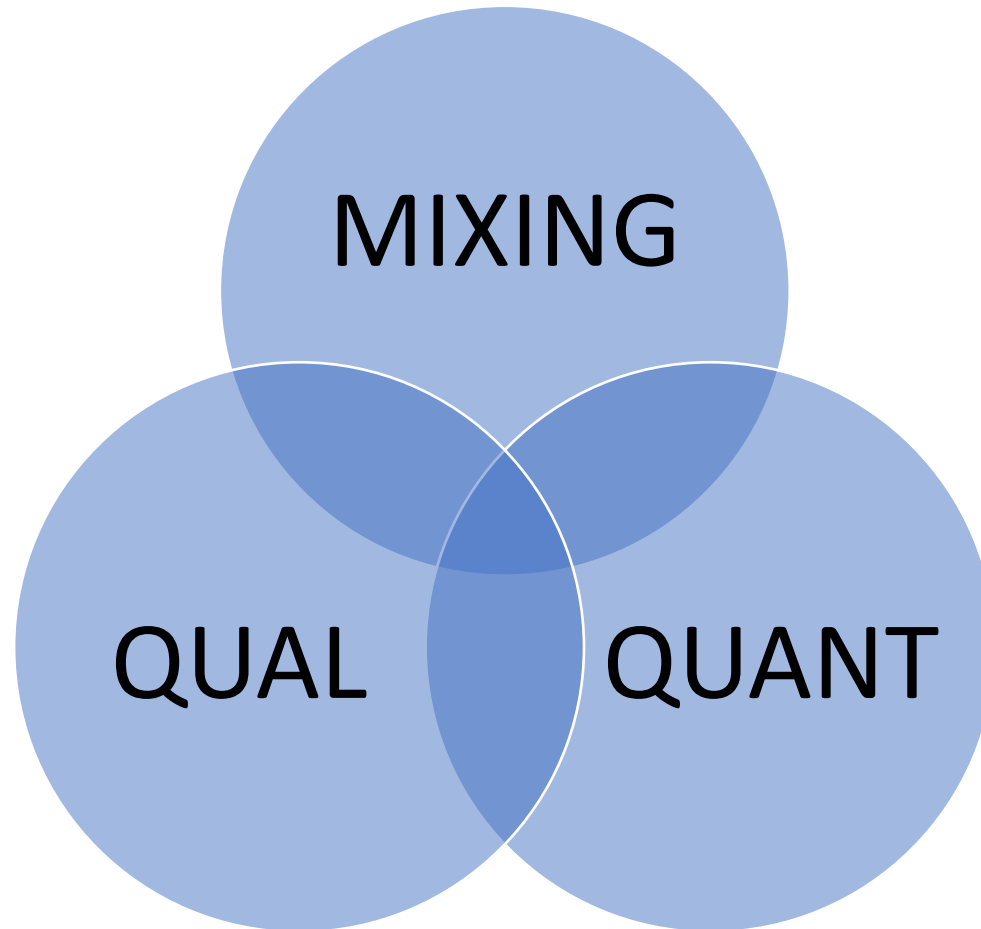


Fig. 1 Fraction of the total of articles mentioning Mixed Method Research appearing in a given year, 1990–2017 (yearly values sum to 1). See footnote 1

Definitions of MMR



The Paradigm Specter



MYTH: It's mixing paradigms.

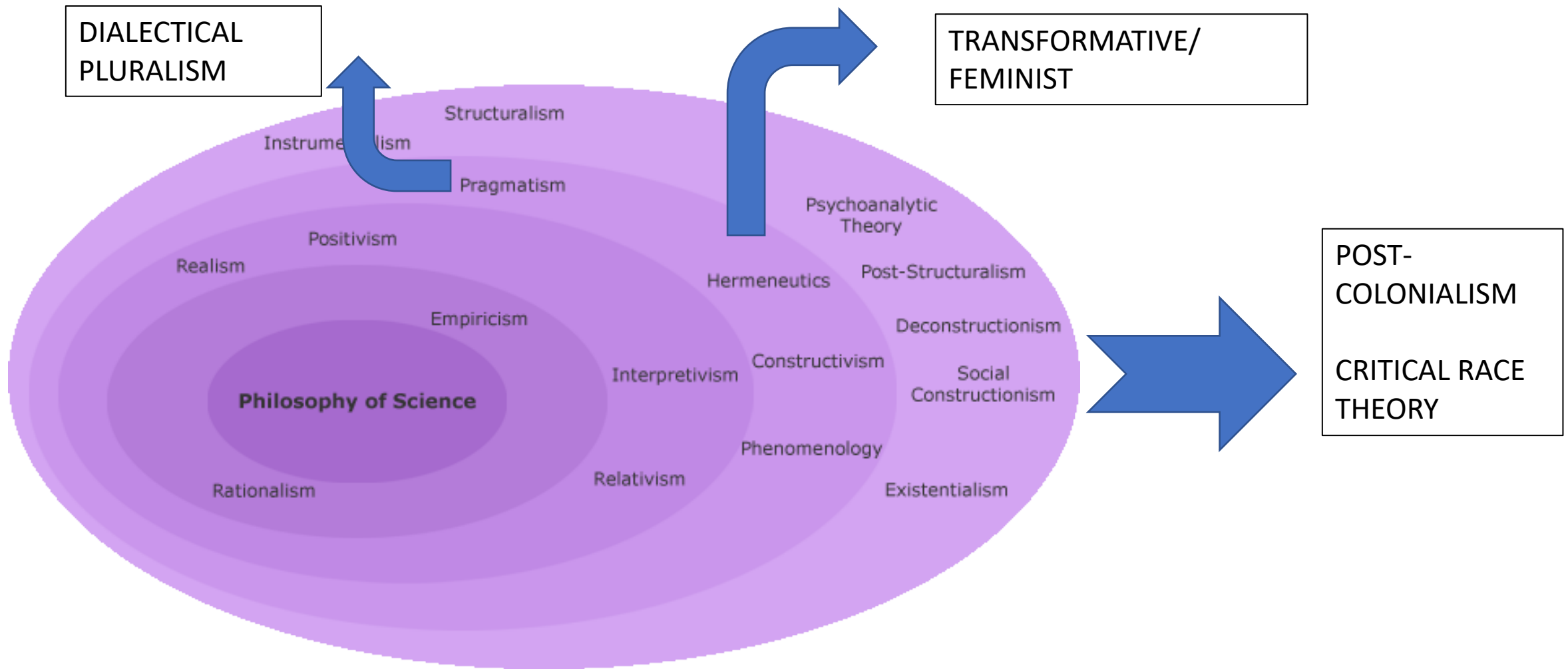
Qualitative and quantitative research
emanate from different paradigms
that are inherently incompatible.

EXTENSION: One must be dominant.

Many Paradigms are Compatible with MMR

PARADIGMS	BRIEF SUMMARY
Constructivism	Everyone sees the world differently; no view is better than other.
Pragmatism	The issue is picking what works; how to impact practice.
Dialectical Pluralism	The purpose is to integrate diverse perspectives, theories, etc.
Post-modern	Acknowledged complexity.
Feminist/Anti-Racist	Purpose is to promote equitable practices.

METHODOLOGIES EVOLVE WITH SHIFTS IN THE DOMINANT PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE



<https://koppa.jyu.fi/avoimet/hum/menetelmapolkuja/en/methodmap/philosophy-of-science>

The Charge that MMR is “Positivism in Drag”; A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing

Way this is manifested:

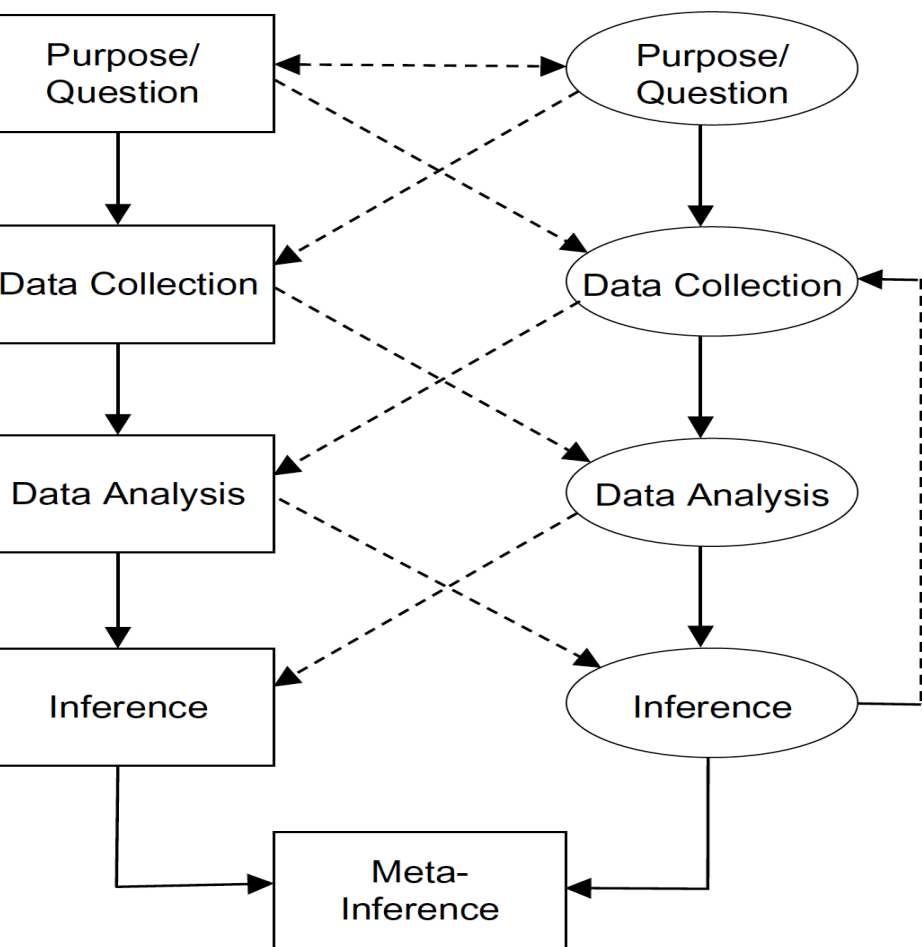
1. QUAL is reduced to frequencies.
2. QUAL is sprinkled in with the text through a couple of quotes from interviews.



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Giddings, L. S. (2006). Mixed-method research: Positivism dressed in drag? *Journal of Research in Nursing*, 11(3), 195-203. DOI: 10.1177/1744987106064635.

MYTHS: The QUAL and QUANT strands must be kept separate. Drawing inferences and meta inferences can be postponed to the final stage of the research process and the discussion section of the manuscript.



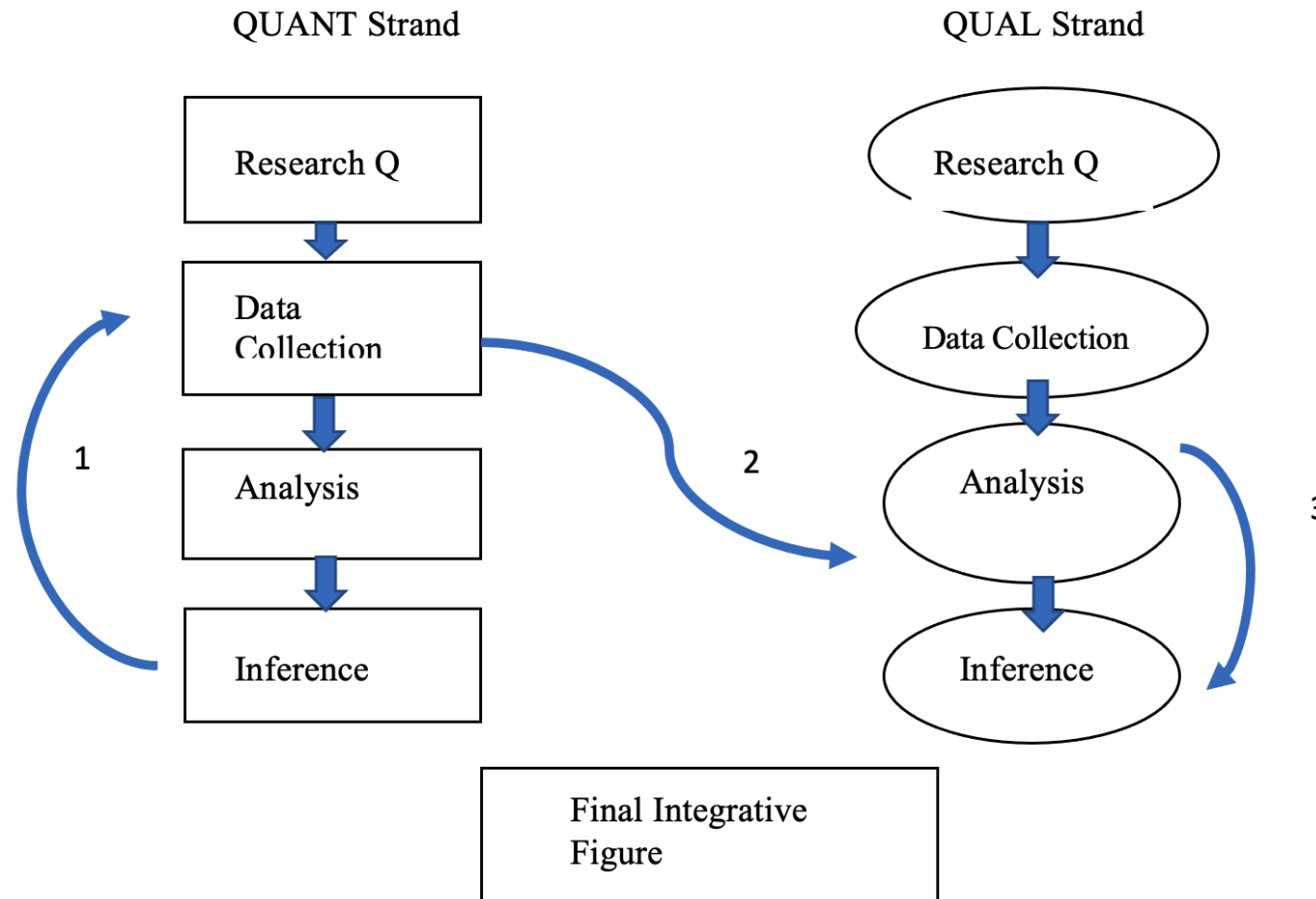
“The strategy that is most destructive of coherent integration is to work through complete analysis of each of the separate sources of data types available before considering how they might be integrated” (Bazeley, 2018, p. 283)



Figure
Tashakkori's and Teddlie's (p. 690, 2003) Visualization of a Fully Integrated Mixed Model Design
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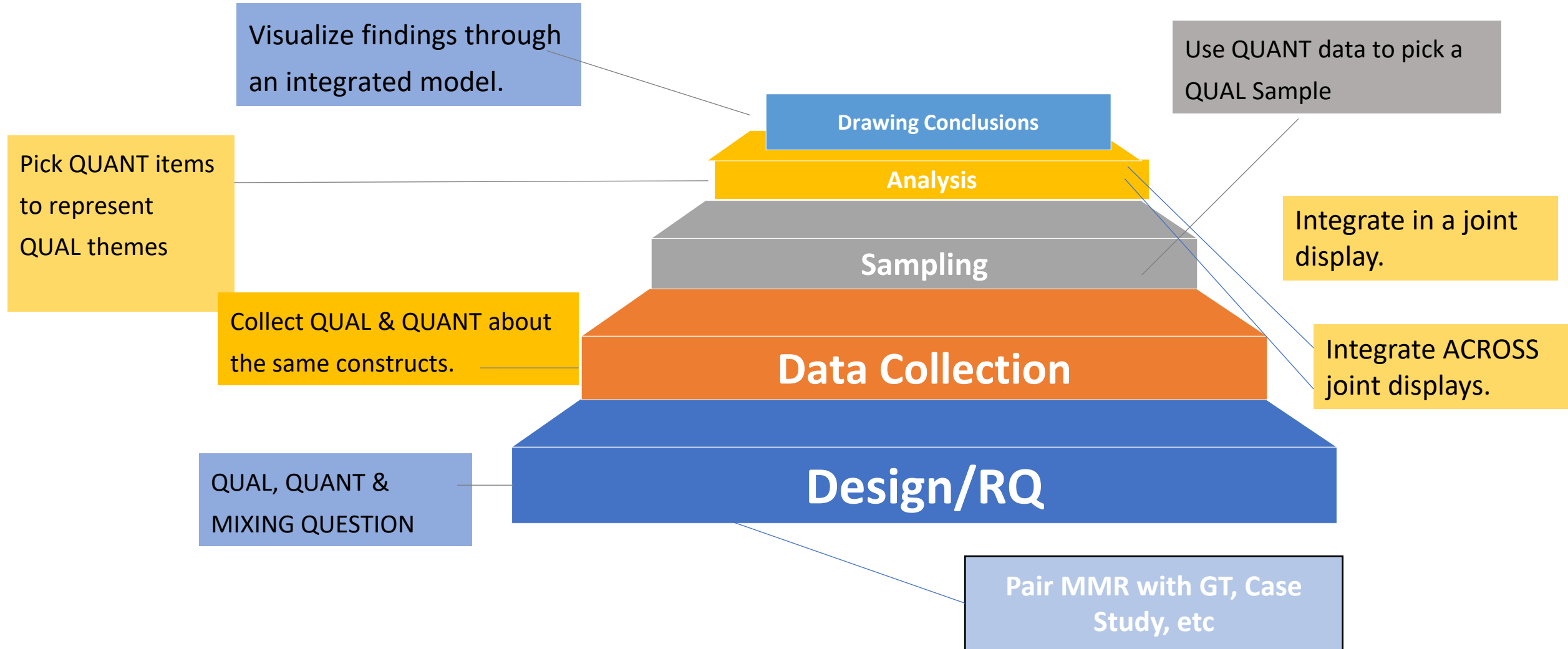
Threaded Analysis – Mixing During Analysis

A Threaded Analysis



Moran-Ellis, J., Alexander, V. D., Cronin, A., Dickenson, M., Fielding, J., Sleney, J., & Thomas, H. (2006). Triangulation and integration: Processes, claims, and implications. *Qualitative Research*, 6(1), 45-59.

One Way to Think about FIMMR: Examples of Procedures/Strategies



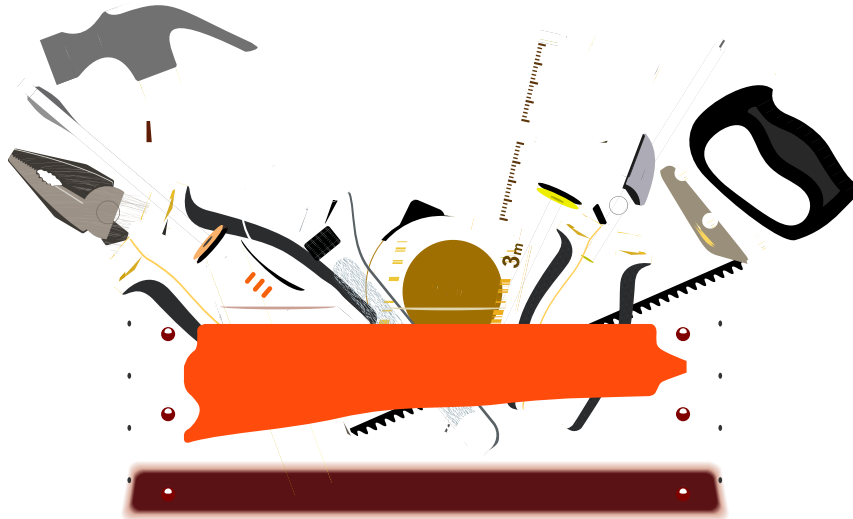
MYTH: Methodological Transparency is a Sufficient Indicator of Quality? Necessary but Not Sufficient

Expectations for MMR include:

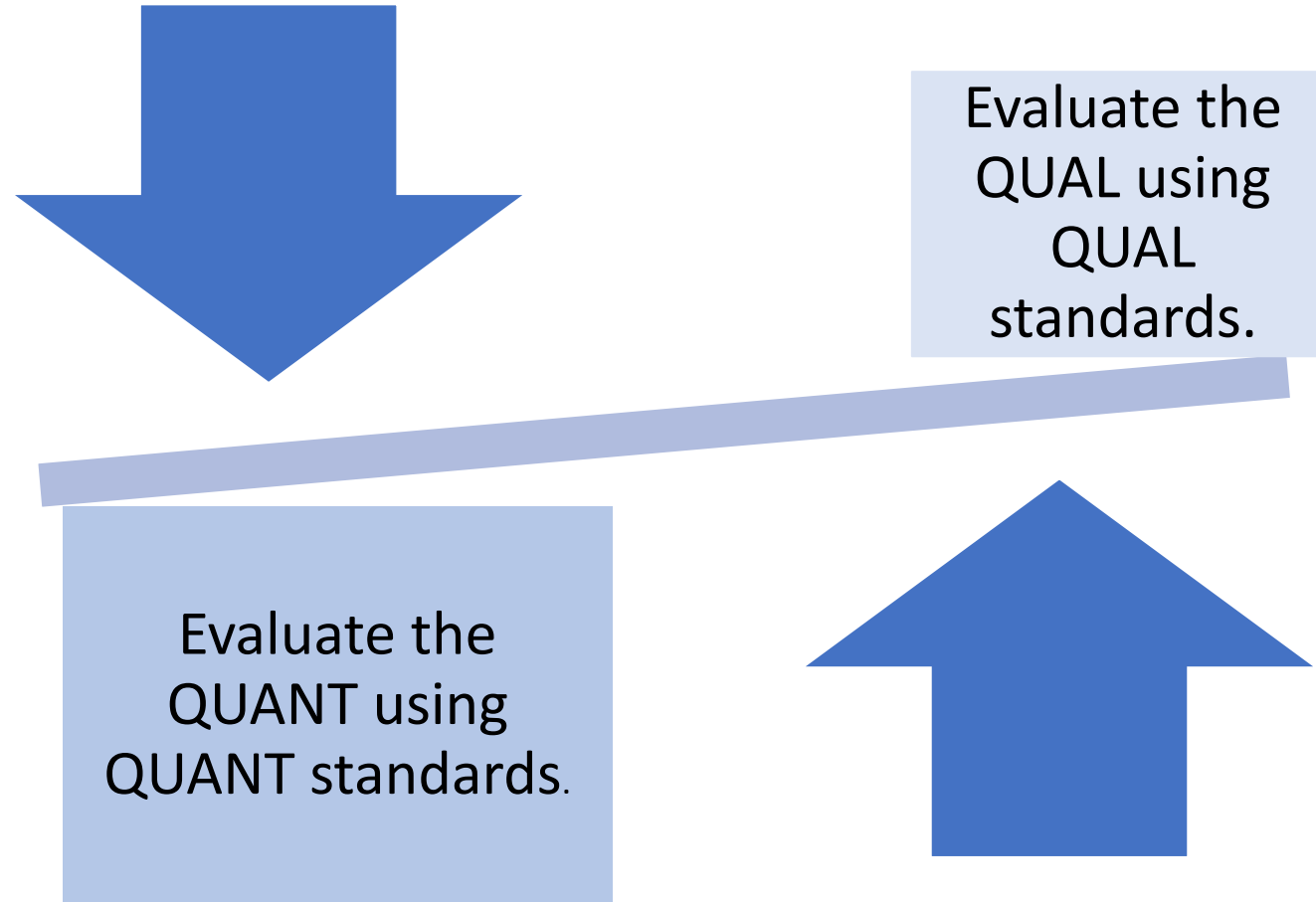
1. Describe the justification using MMR.
2. Describe the design in terms of purpose, priority, and sequence of methods.
3. Describe the procedures for each method.
4. Describe where integration occurred; how it occurred.
5. Describe limitations.
6. Describe what insight was gained from mixing and integrating methods.

MYTH: Picking a MMR Design Equates to Quality

Other Ways to Consider Quality
*Now only what did but the originality
and credibility of what it produced.*



MYTH: Evaluating the Quality of MMR



Collins, K. M. T., Onwuegbuzie, A. J., & Johnson, R. B. (2012). Securing a place at the table: A review and extension of legitimacy

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criteria for the conduct of mixed research. *American Behavioral Scientists*, 56 (6), 849-865.

Misperceptions about Mixed Methods by Stage of the Research Process

1

MMR is a “new” methodology. *The first textbook about it was in the context of evaluation in 1979. It continues to evolve.*

2

MMR is mixing paradigms. *The same paradigm can be applied to both approaches.*

3

MMR trivializes QUAL. *It often does in QUANT dominant disciplines.*

4

QUAL and QUANT are executed in strands that should be kept separate. *Not necessarily. Research is messy. It's complex.*

5

Quality rests on choosing the right MMR design. *It is not only the rigor of the methods but the quality of the findings.*